

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 11, 2004. Claims 1, 6 to 17, 19, 24, 25, and 28 are in the application, with Claims 1, 19, and 28 being independent. Claim 18 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 15, 19, and 25 have been amended. The specification has been amended. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation that Claims 1, 6 to 17, 19, 24, 25, and 28 have been allowed. The amendments made to Claims 15, 19, and 25 are not believed to affect their allowability. Accordingly, Claims 1, 6 to 17, 19, 24, 25, and 28 are believed to remain in condition for allowance.

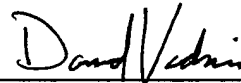
The drawings were objected to for failing to show the feature of a means for varying spacing between said excitation light illumination portion and said light detecting portion, as recited by Claim 19. Applicants respectfully submit that this feature is shown, *inter alia*, in Figure 2 of the present application. The stage 13b varies the spacing by moving the excitation light illumination portion 13a. In this regard, the specification has been amended to include the reference numerals 1a, 13, 13b, 14, 14a, and 14b. Applicants submit that one skilled in the art would have recognized that such was intended.

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over WO 00/68668 (Yurino). The rejection is respectfully traversed, and has been obviated by the cancellation of Claim 18.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Damond E. Vadnais", is written over a horizontal line.

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